

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Ruth Ross was born on June 26, 1926, at West Hartford, Connecticut, to Frank and Lyda Ross, the oldest of two children; and,

*Whereas*, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

*Whereas*, In 1948, Ruth traveled from her home in Connecticut as a volunteer to help begin carving the dream of Chief Henry Standing Bear and Korczak Ziolkowski; and,

*Whereas*, Ruth married Korczak Ziolkowski on Thanksgiving Day 1950, and to this union 10 children were born; and,

*Whereas*, Ruth serves as CEO/President of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation and is responsible for the success of the memorial today due to her steadfast vigilance, passion and selfless dedication to the project for nearly 60 years; and,

*Whereas*, Ruth has dedicated her life to fulfilling the dream of the Crazy Horse Memorial and has become known as the "First Lady of the Black Hills"; and,

*Whereas*, Ruth will observe her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives honor her and celebrate her life at the memorial; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 26, 2006, as

### *RUTH ZIOLKOWSKI DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join her friends and her relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health and great happiness.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State